

San Salvador, El Salvador  
23 September 2009

### **Final report and recommendations**

The following are presented as suggestions to ITU and Member States by participants in the Central American workshop on natural disaster management, held in San Salvador from 21 to 23 September 2009 under the auspices of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Office of the General Superintendent for Electricity and Telecommunications of El Salvador. For future events and activities under this programme, the following are considered important points:

The following suggestions are addressed to ITU:

- 1 With Member States in the Central American region, conclude a memorandum of understanding such that a number of satellite voice and/or data terminals will be made available in the region on an ongoing basis. These terminals would be used in the Central American region to provide an immediate response in the case of natural or man-made disasters (see ITU document on emergencies).
- 2 Continue to provide training at the regional level in the use and management of this equipment, in accordance with a yearly work programme.
- 3 Streamline internal procedures to ensure that optimal use is made of resources provided for the participation of experts from Member States in events relating to the subject of telecommunications in disaster situations.
- 4 Follow up on suggestions and schedule a further activity of the same kind, to be held no later than the first quarter of next year, to assess the progress made.

The following suggestions are addressed to Member States:

- 1 Those Member States which have not yet done so are urged to ratify the Tampere Convention.
- 2 Those Member States which have not yet done so are urged to ratify the agreements promoted under the auspices of the Organization of American States, and amendments thereto, concerning the transportation of equipment and validation of amateur radio operators' licences throughout the Americas region, which will facilitate the work done by amateur radio operators in emergency situations.
- 3 Those Member States which have not yet adhered to the ITU Memorandum of Understanding on Global Mobile Personal Communications by Satellite (GMPCS-MoU) are urged to do so, and, once they have done so, to advise their corresponding customs authorities.
- 4 Those Member States which do not have a telecommunication plan for emergency and disaster management should proceed to design and implement such a plan, with a view to developing a regional plan with agencies of the Central American integration system such as the Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPREDENAC), the Central American Regional Technical Telecommunication Commission (COMTELCA) and entities at the national level.
- 5 Member States are urged to include the experience of radio amateurs in connection with the operation of telecommunication equipment in emergency situations.

For the purposes of the foregoing, it should be borne in mind that all communication between a Member State and ITU should be directed through the country's ITU focal point.